

Dedication Exercises of St. Patrick's Church

From the Raton Range.

St. Patrick's Roman Catholic church was dedicated last Sunday to the worship of God with appropriate and impressive services. In addition to the parishoners, many citizens, not members of that denomination, attended and a special train from Trinidad arrived about 9.30 a. m. with members of Trinidad Council, Knights of Columbus, accompanied by a large number of friends, over two hundred in all.

Shortly after 9 o'clock occurred the ceremony of blessing the church, performed by Archbishop Bourgade of Santa Fe.

Following is a synopsis of the sermon delivered by Father Edward Barry of Denver, at the dedication of St. Patrick's Roman Catholic church last Sunday morning:

"Pentecost." When we look abroad upon mighty Kingdom that rules from sea to sea, when we behold on every side evidences of its greatness and stability, when we contemplate the wisdom of its institutions and the happiness of its people, when we find that genius and learning, and taste—the wealth of human intellect and the poetry of human feeling—have all been lavished to build up, and to adorn, and to make as nearly perfect as the work of human hands can be, the vast fabric of its greatness, we find rising within us a de-

opened, and the Clouds closed over the glory of His passing, and they that loved Him, saw Him no more. They were left alone, left to recall half sadly the features of that glorious face and to feed upon the memory of that tender heart. They were left, so to speak, desolate upon the dreary world, and it is no wonder they stood, as we read in the Acts of the Apostles "Looking up to Heaven," as realizing sadly, that earth could never be a home to them again, now that it was no longer gladdened by His divine beauty. Desolate they stood, and yet not desolate, for He had left them a sacred promise. He had told them in words which He had repeated more than once, on which He had insisted with loving emphasis:



ST. PATRICK'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH.

The dedicatory services began at 10:30. The attendance was so large that every seat in the handsome structure was filled, standing room at a premium and many unable to gain admittance.

The decorations were in keeping with the occasion, neatly arranged, but not profuse. The large altar, as well as the two side altars, were ornamented with cut flowers and ferns, producing a pleasing effect.

The musical portion of the service was elaborate and was much enjoyed feature of the service. Millard's mass in G was sung, consisting of the Kyrie, Gloria, Credo, Sanctus, Agnes Dei and Veni Creator. During the offertory the Ave Maria by Owens, arranged for a trio, was sung.

The excellent singing of the choir reflected the thorough training the several voices blending well together. The solo parts were exceedingly well taken.

Father Cellier of Springer, was celebrant of the mass, assisted by Father Dumarest of Folsom. Following the eloquent sermon by Father Barry, a synopsis of which appears in another column, Archbishop Bourgade made a few remarks and bestowed the Papal blessing on the congregation.

The new church was greatly admired by the large number that attended the service and especially praised by the clergy present.

Following the services at the church, the Raton members of Trinidad Council, Knights of Columbus, entertained the visiting Knights and their friends with a banquet at the Seaberg, covers being laid for over two hundred. After the excellent menu had been discussed, Mr. Edmond McMahon of Trinidad, called the company to order and acted as toastmaster. The visitors were welcomed to Raton by J. L. McDermott of this city in remarks of an appropriate nature, a response being made by J. Duvall. Remarks were also made by James Connelly of Raton, John Jaeger, Grand Knight Mulyane of Trinidad Council, and Messrs. Chacon and Gore, also of that city.

After the post prandial exercises were over, the visitors took advantage of the few remaining hours to wander about the city. They expressed themselves as more than pleased with their visit to the Gate City and the excellent manner in which their welfare had been looked after by the brother Knights of this city.

sire to trace it back to the remote antiquity of its origin.

We would fain make, as it were, a pilgrimage to the cradle of a race that has carved out for itself such a destiny. We would trace back to its first faint source, the river of national life that has rolled so grandly through the centuries and won for itself so deep and broad a channel in the course of human history. We would fain behold the institutions in their germ, that have since expanded into a growth so magnificent and so beautiful.

But how much more will this instinct find to awaken its energy, in



REV. J. V. COONEY.

the spectacle of such a mighty Kingdom as the Church of God, of which we, by God's grace, are members, and whose long glories are our very own? For never yet was seen on earth a Kingdom such as this; never was wisdom so perfect, sway so boundless, stability so absolutely secure.

And it is our privilege today, guided by the liturgy of the Church to go back to what we may well call the inauguration of her power on the day of Pentecost.

Our Blessed Lord has appeared to his disciples after His resurrection, and had discoursed with them about the Kingdom of God—the Church which He had purchased by His blood. In those mysterious walks by the Sea of Tiberias He had delivered to them, so to speak, the Constitution of His newly established Kingdom, and had commissioned them to preach the Gospel to every creature.

But when forty days had come and gone, He went up, and the heavens

"It is expedient for you that I go, for if I do not go the Paraclete will not come to you. But if I go I will send Him to you, and He, being come, will teach you all truth."

The true Catholic always loves even the material edifice of his church, because he knows that it is not a mere meeting house where men assemble to pray and preach. He knows that it is the most sacred place on earth—dwelling place of the King of Kings. Consequently he feels that nothing is too precious or too good for its adornment. Those who have not our faith, often wonder at this, when they see our people, even in their poverty, building splendid churches and decorating them with royal magnificence. Well, my friends, if Moses judged that the tabernacle that was to contain the tables of the law should be made of incorruptible satin-wood, decorated with violet and purple and scarlet, and ornamented with precious stones, gold, silver and brass, what ought the tabernacle to be which is destined to contain the very Author of the law himself. If, when the people of God found rest from their wanderings in the land of Promise they built a temple for the Ark, which was the pride of the world, what ought not Christians to build for the Ark of the New Law, which is Jesus Christ Himself, the Son of God, who personally dwells there, under the appearance of bread? In view of this great truth we can point to our Altar and say "Behold the tabernacle of God with men, and He will dwell with them."

The true Catholic has taken this lesson to heart and hence those houses of God—those gorgeous temples of prayer and sacrifice that decorate the rivers and mountains and plains of Italy and Germany and France and Spain—hence those grand and stately Cathedrals and cloistered abbeys scattered in profusion over England and Scotland and which seem so much out of keeping with their present uses.

Hence the noble churches and monasteries that once covered every hillside and lifted their heads from out every smiling valley of poor faithful England. No sooner had the Irish received the faith than they became, what they remain to this day, in spite of centuries of persecution, the Church builders of the world.

We all congratulate you today, both priest and people, because we see around us here the proof of your zeal

and pious efforts in the upbuilding of God's house. There is a manifest proof that the faith, which in other days and in another land builded churches in groups of seven, and which, when the Church and Chapel were destroyed or desecrated, worshipped in the bog and lonely glen, and on the lonier mountain side has lost none of its pristine virtue on being transferred and transplanted to the mountain fastnesses of New Mexico. May the dying prayer of him in whose honor you have built this beautiful temple, the great St. Patrick, be fulfilled in each and every one of you, that you may remain ever faithful and true to the faith which he planted in the minds and hearts of our people and which has been fed and nourished with the blood of so many martyrs. You are in most part, I think, children of that ancient race and faith; but, Oh! never forget that faith is a gift of God, a gift which may be lost or taken away if neglected. Keep it alive then by your good works, by your good example, by your watchful care over your little ones, by the faithful discharge of every duty you owe to God, your country and yourselves, and then you may look forward with St. Paul, to the great day when faith shall be in vision and hope swallowed up in fruition.

The beautiful new church was recently erected and furnished at a cost of \$13,000 and is an ornament to the city and a credit to the parish, as well as to the energy and push of the pastor, Rev. J. V. Cooney, who was largely instrumental in raising the funds to build the edifice. The building follows the Romanesque style of architecture and occupies a prominent corner location on South Second street and was constructed entirely of native stone.

The interior aspect is most pleasing, the general scheme being of a nature calculated to impress the eye and at the same time suggestive of quiet meditation and communion with God.

Inside the altar railing the coloring is a cream white with gilt trimmings, while that of the pews, altar railing, confessional, etc., is of mahogany. The choir gallery is at the rear of the auditorium and is of ample size. There is a large basement hall running the entire length and width of the building that will be occupied for Sunday school purposes and parish entertainments.

The following sketch of the parish may be of interest to many:

Raton and Blossberg were originally missions attached to Springer, which, in the northeastern portion of New Mexico, was first erected into a parish. Occasional visits hither were made by the parish priest of Springer, and services held in private houses. With the increasing importance of these towns greater efforts were made for regular attendance. The old church was built while Raton remained an adjunct of Springer.

In 1891 the district from Catskill on the west to the Union county line on the east, and from the Territorial line on the north to a parallel line about twenty-two miles south of Raton, was detached from Springer and placed under the pastoral care of Rev. T. O'Keefe. On his assignment in 1893 to Las Vegas, the parish was confided to the care of Rev. J. V. Cooney, who has since remained in charge.

Rev. J. V. Cooney is a native of Ireland and came to this country when eighteen years of age. Prior to this time he had laid the foundation of his ecclesiastical studies in his native land and after arriving in the United States, completed his education for the Priesthood at Germantown, Pennsylvania, and graduated with honors from Niagara University, Niagara Falls, New York. Father Cooney spent three years in New Mexico before coming to Raton, having parishes at Socorro and San Marcial. During the long time he has been pastor of St. Patrick's church, Father Cooney has labored unceasingly for its welfare and advancement and has greatly endeared himself to the parishoners. He is constantly kept busy attending to his multitudinous church duties, as well as making numerous sick calls all over this section of the territory, etc.

The present choir of the church is composed of A. R. Streicher, director, and Mrs. A. R. Streicher, Mrs. Lida McBride Roun, L. W. Walsh and Harry Farrell.

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